SONGKRAN

Songkran is Thailand's *traditional* **New Year festival**, famous worldwide for its joyful **water celebrations**

It is traditionally celebrated **every year in mid-April**, marking the sun's transition into the ***Aries*** (*Ram*, 1st sign) solar Zodiac sign, which symbolizes renewal and fresh beginnings, purification, and gratitude.

Songkran (Sanskrit) meaning "movement" or "transition," referring to this astrological change.

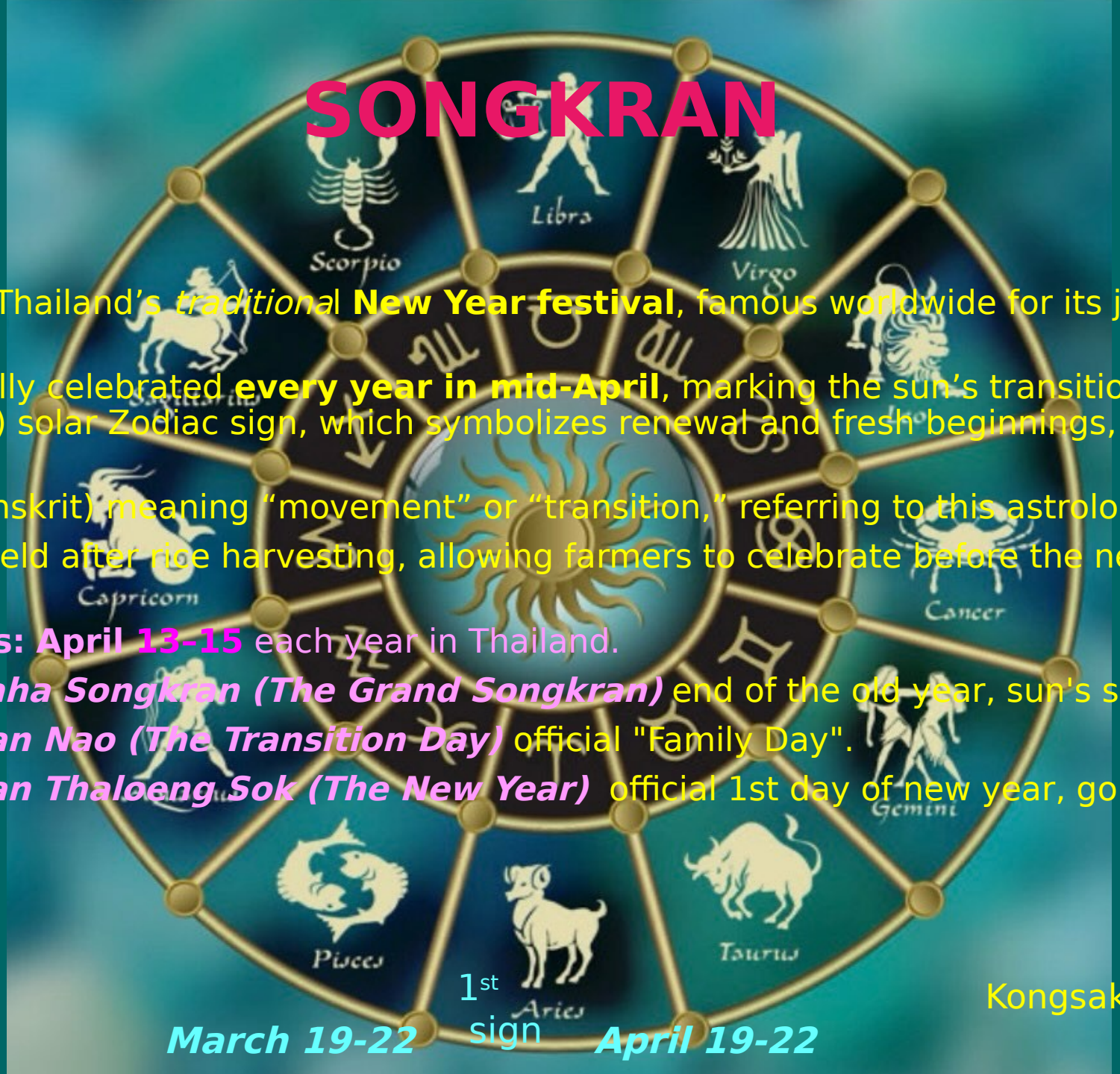
Traditionally held after rice harvesting, allowing farmers to celebrate before the next planting season.

Official dates: April 13–15 each year in Thailand.

April 13: Maha Songkran (The Grand Songkran) end of the old year, sun's shift --> Aries

April 14: Wan Nao (The Transition Day) official "Family Day".

April 15: Wan Thaloeng Sok (The New Year) official 1st day of new year, go to temples, water fights.



Kongsak Tanphaichitr, M.D.

SONGKRAN

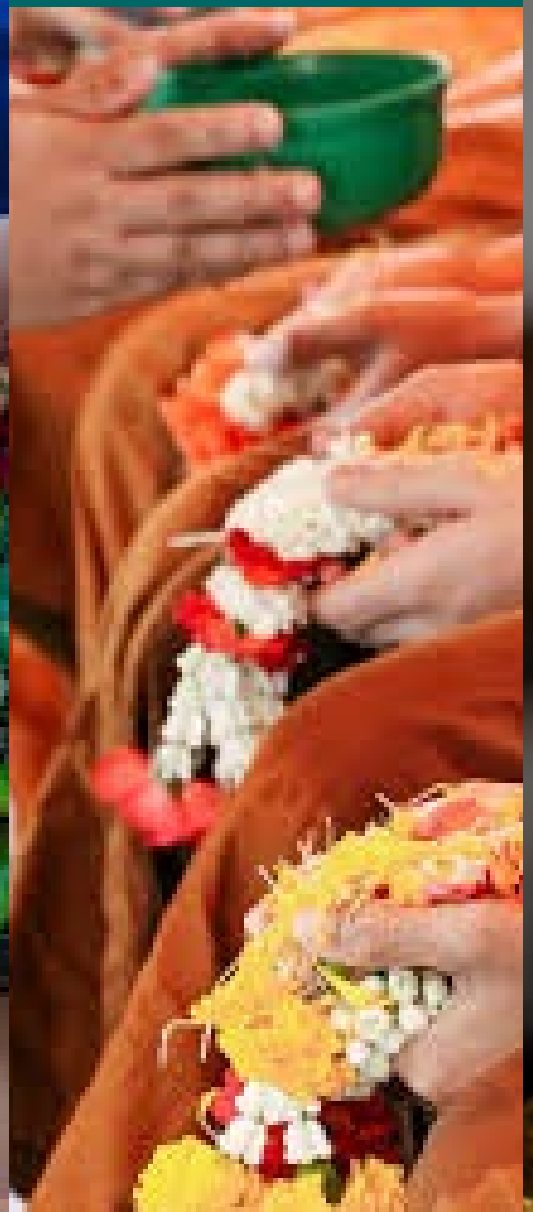
How is Songkran celebrated?

Songkran blends **religious tradition** with **public celebration**:

Traditional observances include:

- Visiting temples
- Giving alms to Buddhist monks
- Pouring water over Buddha images
- Honoring elders, monks, with water blessings

SONGKR



Modern celebrations include:

- Music, street festivals, and parades
- Community gatherings that can involve locals and visitors alike
- City-wide water fights

2024
Songkran
World Water Festival

City-wide water fights

Songkran is observed not only in Thailand but also, under different names, in Laos, Cambodia, Myanmar, and parts of India and China.

In 2023, UNESCO inscribed Songkran on the Representative List of the *Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity*, recognizing its cultural importance.

THE THAI ASSOCIATION OF GREATER SAINT LOUIS
PROUDLY PRESENTS
Songkran
2026 Thai New Year Festival
Wat Phrasriratanaram
890 Lindsay Lane, Florissant MO 63031
Sunday
April 19, 2026
10:30 am - 5:00 pm
ENJOY WITH FREE ADMISSION!
(Food and drinks not included)
Live Thai music
Classical Thai dance
Thai food and dessert
Long-drum dance parade
'Miss Songkran' beauty pageant
amazing THAILAND
MISSOURI HISTORY MUSEUM
MISSOURI HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Songkran Teaser at Missouri History Museum on Thursday, April 16, 2026, 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM
5700 Lindell Blvd, St. Louis, MO 63112
For more information please visit stlthaitemple.org , Tel: (314) 839-3115

890 Lindsay Lane,
Florissant MO 63031

Sunday
April 19, 2026
10:30 am - 5:00 pm

ENJOY WITH FREE ADMISSION!
(Food and drinks not included)

Live Thai music
Classical Thai dance
Thai food and dessert
Long-drum dance parade